

**BUCKFASTLEIGH EAST URBAN
DISTRICT.**

ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1897.

The Birth and Death Rates in this annual report of 1897 are calculated, as last year, on the estimated population of 2,750.

BIRTHS.

30 males, 26 females, total 56, giving a birth rate of 20·36 per 1,000. Comparing this with last year's report, there is a decrease of 7 males and an increase of 4 females, leaving a decrease of 3.

DEATHS.

There have been 33 deaths during the year, giving a rate of 12 per 1,000. This is a still further improvement, the rate last year being 13·09, and in 1895 15·77 per 1,000. Eight deaths occurred under one year (3 from premature birth); two from 1 to 5 years of age; none from 5 to 15; one from 15 to 25; nine from 25 to 65; and thirteen above 65. Of these last, 6 were from decay. There was only one death from infectious disease.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

During the year seven cases of typhoid fever and one of erysipelas have been notified. One of the cases of typhoid fever died. The dates of the typhoid notifications were March 31st, April 14th, May 17th, July 21st, September 7th, October 16th, and October 24th, so that the disease never attempted to take an epidemic form—a point on which the Council and their officers may fairly congratulate themselves. In the two first cases (living in the same house) the case was an escape of sewer gas through a broken trap in the sink in the scullery. In the third case the probable cause was drinking water from the soft water tap, which had been taken from a contaminated source; several children had been seen to drink it, but there was no other case. No distinct cause could be discovered for the other cases. In every instance I examined the drinking water carefully, and found it quite good. Both the sources of infection mentioned above were promptly removed. The lesson to be learnt from these cases is that the disease is endemic in the town, and it is necessary to impress upon everyone the importance of avoiding the accumulation of any kind of refuse and of attending at once to any suspected escape of sewer gas.

DRAINAGE.

All the arrangements for the Sewerage Scheme have now been completed, and the works are being actively carried out.

WATER.

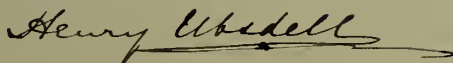
The Water Scheme is still in the stage of negotiation, but it is to be hoped the Council will still continue to press it, and carry out what is such an absolute necessity.

COTTAGE ACCOMODATION.

The cottages that have been recently built have relieved the overcrowding to a considerable extent, though a few more are still wanted. I went round last spring with the Surveyor to inspect the cottages and found in Buckfastleigh nine rooms with less than 200 cubic feet of air space for each person, and seven with from 200 to 240 cubic feet. In Buckfast there were two rooms with less than 200 cubic feet. In my report for 1894 I had to state there were 23 rooms in which there were less than 200 cubic feet for each occupant, and 24 with from 200 to 240 cubic feet.

COWSHED.

A short time ago a cowshed, in which there was only 472 cubic feet of air space for each cow, was burnt down, and the Council refused to sanction plans for its re-erection because the cubic area was not up to their standard. It is now about to be re-built, provision having been made for the full 700 cubic feet of air for each cow, as required by the Bye-laws.



Medical Officer of Health.

